



# **Food Safety International Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Strategies and Activities**

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# WTO-SPS Agreement

## Article 9 – Technical Assistance

- 1. *Members agree to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to other Members, especially developing country Members, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations...*
- 2. Where substantial investments are required in order for an exporting developing country Member to fulfil the sanitary or phytosanitary requirements of an importing Member, the latter shall consider providing such technical assistance as will permit the developing country Member to maintain and expand its market access opportunities for the product involved.



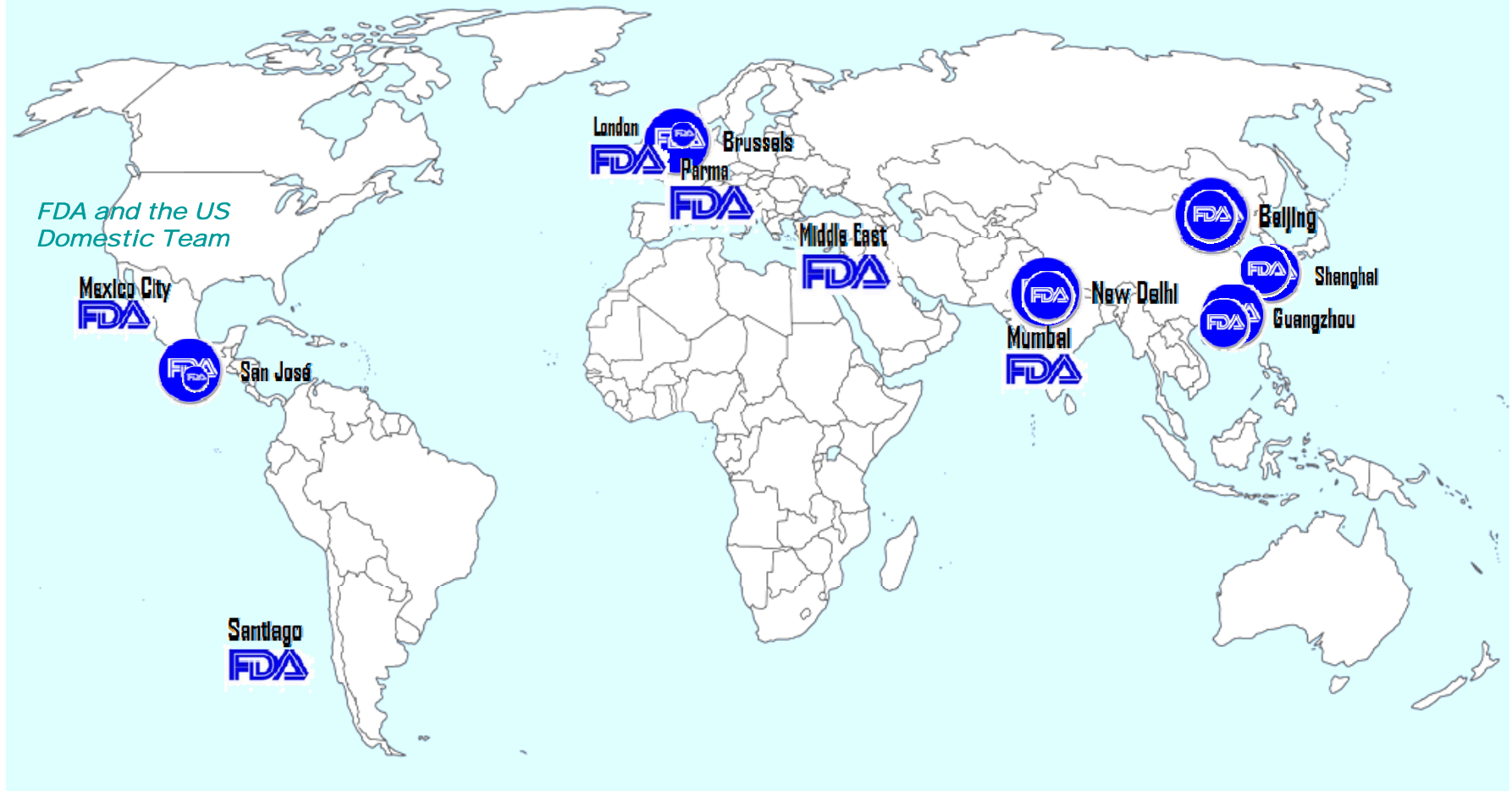
## **Technical Assistance within the framework of the SPS Agreement: Highlights from G/SPS/GEN/181/Add.8 (May 08-Oct 09)**

- SPS Technical Assistance CAFTA-DR countries (2005-2008) FDA (technical specialists) collaborated with USAID and USDA
  - Enhance laboratory diagnostic capabilities in microbiology and pesticide residues;
  - Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs; 08-09: Honduras, Dominican Republic, Guatemala)
- Food Safety Outreach
  - APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)/ Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)
  - FDA International Outreach – FDA began establishing overseas posts

<http://spsims.wto.org/web/pages/search/other/Search.aspx>



# FDA Response to Global Change



Beyond our Borders – Foreign Offices



## **APEC FSCF\* activities May 08 – Oct 09**

- APEC Food Defense Pilot Programme (May-Nov 08, Peru; Mar-Jun 09, Thailand)
- APEC Workshop on Risk Communication (Jun 08; Philippines, APEC Member States)
- FSCF/PTIN\*\* Hot Issues in Risk Analysis Workshop (Aug 09; Singapore; APEC member states; first workshop)

\* Food Safety Cooperative Forum

\*\* Partnership Training Institute Network



## **Additional activities reported May 08 – Oct 09**

- Food Labeling Regulations (Jan 08; 2-day workshop; El Salvador)
- Food Regulatory Programme (May 08; Cochran Fellowship; for Argentina, Guatemala, Uruguay)
- Food Safety Recall Seminar (Aug 08; Panama)
- Good Aquaculture Practices (JIFSAN; Nov 08; Indonesia)
- Regulatory Guidance to Chinese Port Officials (Nov 08 in US; AQSIQ)



## **Additional activities reported May 08 – Oct 09**

- Cantaloupe production audit and best practices (Dec 08; Honduras)
- Cochran Training of Food Safety (MSU; Feb 09; Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)
- Foreign Embassy Outreach: FDA Reportable Food Registry Workshop (Jul-Aug 09; three locations in US)



## Pre-FSMA

- Food Program – One Mission, One Program: Import Core Team
- Charge: to develop goals and strategies for ensuring the safety of imported foods and feeds, including plans for implementing anticipated new food import legal authorities
- Included a capacity building/technical assistance work group





## CB/TA workgroup

- Developed common terms and definitions
- Key principles:
  - more proactive;
  - risk-based with focus on prevention;
  - sustainable impact;
  - accountability; and
  - ownership
- Link CB/TA efforts to public health outcomes
- Partnerships are essential
- Regional approaches



## What is Food Safety Capacity?

- ***Food safety and quality capacity:*** the ability of ***individuals, organizations*** and ***systems*** along the farm-to-table continuum to perform appropriate functions effectively, efficiently and sustainably in order to ensure the safety and quality of food for ***domestic consumption and export.***

FAO (2006): Strengthening national food control systems: guidelines to assess capacity building needs (pg 4)



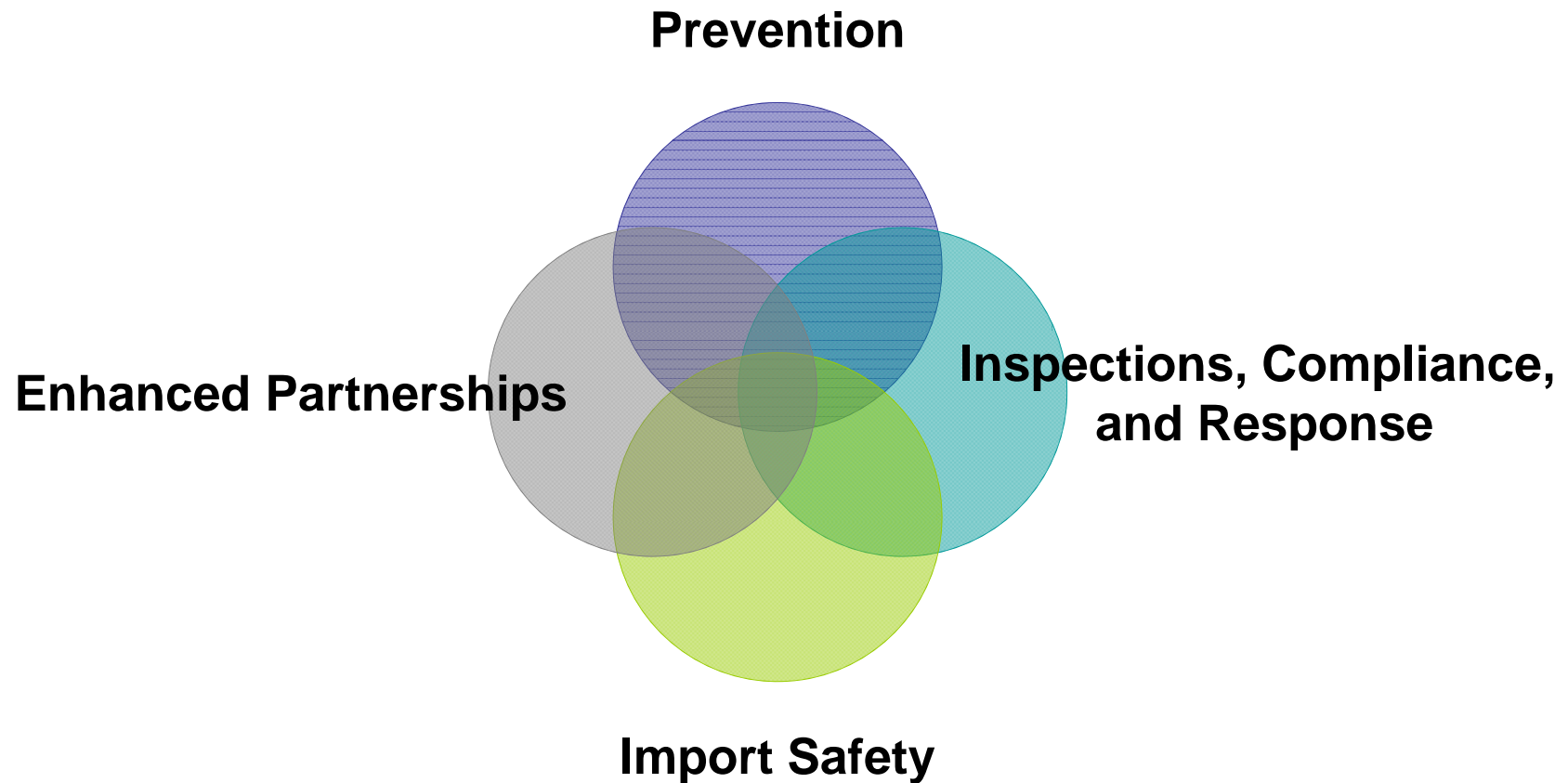
## What is Food Safety Capacity Building?

- ***Capacity building in food safety and quality:*** the process through which relevant stakeholders from farm to table (including government agencies, food enterprises and consumers) improve their ability to perform their core roles and responsibilities, solve problems, define and achieve objectives, understand and address needs, and effectively work together in order to ensure the safety of food for **domestic consumption and export.**

FAO (2006): Strengthening national food control systems: guidelines to assess capacity building needs (pg 7)



# Main Themes of the Legislation





## FSMA Sec 305(a)

In General – The Secretary shall, not later than 2 **years** of the date of the enactment of this Act, develop **a comprehensive plan to expand** the technical, scientific, and regulatory food safety **capacity** of foreign governments, and their respective food industries, from which foods are exported to the United States



## FSMA Sec 305(c)

- PLAN – The plan developed under subsection (a) shall include, as appropriate, the following
  - (1) Recommendations for bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements, including provisions to provide for responsibility of exporting countries to ensure the safety of food.
  - (2) Provisions for secure electronic data sharing.
  - (3) Provisions for mutual recognition of inspection reports.
  - (4) Training of foreign governments and food producers on United States requirements for safe food.
  - (5) Recommendations on whether and how to harmonize requirements under the Codex Alimentarius
  - (6) Provisions for the multilateral acceptance of laboratory methods and testing and detection techniques



## Public Hearing – Mar 30-31

- Ensuring the Safety of Imported Foods and Animal Feed: Comparability of Food Safety Systems and Import Practices of Foreign Countries
- <http://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/WorkshopsMeetingsConferences/ucm243781.htm>
- Day 2: Import Best Practices; Capacity Building
- Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0135 (open for comment until June 30, 2011)



## International CB Strategy

- Plan is under development building on efforts of the CB/TA workgroup
- Proactive approach
- Key considerations:
  - Partnerships are key
  - Regional approach
  - Consider needs of a country
  - Consider volume and risk
  - New regulations stemming from FSMA





# International CB Strategy

- Technical assistance vs. capacity building
  - Critical information on the U.S regulations
  - Developing programs that provide knowledge of the scientific principles that underpin the regulations
  - Recognizing that training programs can be provided through different modalities
- Based on core principles: (e.g., sustainability, accountability, ownership, etc)
- Awareness of activities related to the capacity building for states, local and tribal governments (including the IFTPI activities)
- Utilize FDA foreign presence (FSMA Sec 308)



## Current resources/activities\*

- Foreign posts (FSMA Sec. 308): continually engaged in information exchange; technical assistance on FDA regulations
  - ...with respect to measures to provide for the safety of articles of food and other products regulated by the Food and Drug Administration exported by such country to the United States
- International Visitors Program  
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/InternationalActivities/ucm122868.htm>

\* Not intended to be all inclusive



## Current resources/activities\*

- Training videos on various food safety topics with captions in multiple languages:
  - Food Defense, Carver+Shock
  - Produce Safety: A Global Concern
  - CFSAN Food Labeling Training Program
  - FDA's Role in the U.S. Food Safety System
  - FDA Import Food Safety Inspection System

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/InternationalActivities/ucm151737.htm>

\* Not intended to be all inclusive



## Current resources/activities\*

- Continuing outreach to the international community on the implementation of FSMA provisions (public meetings; webinars; briefings at international events, etc.)

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/default.htm>

- Establishing the Produce Safety Alliance (curriculum development for training domestic and international communities; FSMA Sec. 105)

<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/psa.html>

\* **Not intended to be all inclusive**



## Current resources/activities\*

- Conducting Food Defense Awareness Workshops
- Conducting 2-day Aquaculture and Food Safety Workshops
- Continuing to work with JIFSAN
  - Conducting GAPs, GAqPs, CSPF training programs
  - Developing different models for sustainable partnerships
  - Developing of curricula and participating as trainers for the International Food Safety Training Laboratory
  - Developing course for “inspectorate training” and web-based training course for aquaculture drug use/misuse
- Participating in the APEC/PTIN activities

\* Not intended to be all inclusive



## APEC and FSCF/PTIN\*

- 2010 Activities
  - Export Certification Roundtable (Feb; Australia)
  - Development and Strengthening of Food Recall Systems Workshop (May; Philippines)
  - Best Practices in the Development and Delivery of Food Safety Curricula (May; WB Headquarter, US)
  - Capacity Building in Food Safety: Developing Food Safety Plans in the Supply Chain (Nov; Beijing, China)

\* **Food Safety Cooperation Forum/Partnership Training Institute Network**



## APEC and FSCF/PTIN

- Web-site live Jan 2011 (<http://fscf-ptin.apec.org/>)
- U.S. Host Country for 2011 – May; Big Sky, Montana; focus Food Safety
- Managing Food Incident Workshop (May)
- Supply Chain Training Modules demo (May; developed from Beijing workshop)
- Workshop on Laboratory Capacity Building (Fall; Asia)
- Export Certificate Working Group (tentative Aug; US, Washington, D.C.)



“Anytime there’s something new – especially something with broad [implications] – it takes time for the newness to segue from the old, for definitions to be defined, for conventions to be established. Until then procedures and interpretation tread and lurch.”

From: Design Intelligence Update, email  
10May11; John Flynn and Rob Bendix  
“Redefining the Way We Make Architecture”